



January 21, 2026

Toronto City Council
Planning and Housing Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**Re: Planning and Housing Committee – Meeting 27
Agenda Items PH27.10 through PH27.13**

I am writing to express strong opposition to the above referenced agenda items regarding the proposed changes to Employment Lands, home to important film industry infrastructures.

IATSE 873 represents the thousands of skilled technicians behind motion picture productions in Toronto. IATSE 873 is a part of the IATSE International, the largest union in the entertainment industry, representing more than 360 film Locals across the United States and Canada. Of these Locals, 873 is the second largest in Canada and works hard every day to continue to make Toronto one of the top production destinations in the world. Our members are celebrated internationally for their skills and expertise and have won, or have been nominated for, awards including: Academy Awards, Primetime Emmy Awards, Canadian Screen Awards, British Academy Film Awards, and many more.

The film industry makes a direct production spend of \$2.6 billion annually in the City of Toronto and employs 45,000 Torontonians in largely unionized, remunerative work. It is deeply concerning to us that the proposed changes do not fully take into consideration the significant economic impact that the film industry has for the city and will weaken protections for employment areas and those who work within the sector.

The success of made-in-Ontario film and television productions, and the continued prestige our industry has tirelessly created on the international stage, is deeply contingent on the continued long-term protection of our studio spaces and production-related businesses.

The proposed changes would cause unintentional negative impact to the industry for the following reasons:

1. Conversion or removal of employment areas destabilizes the film industry as production volume may decrease if studio space is limited.
2. The changes could weaken the film industry's preferred "clustering" – i.e., studios should be as close as possible to areas where locations shoot outside the studio and Toronto is the most attractive area for location shoots.



IATSE 873

3. Compatibility to adjacent land uses is necessary as studios needs must be carefully considered to avoid inappropriate areas that would result in complaints and friction between the industry and local residents and businesses.

The IATSE Local 873 and the film industry cannot support any land use planning changes that weaken our economic future and reduce our competitiveness on the global stage. Without a hub of studio spaces and production-related businesses to attract productions, we cannot be expected to continue to prosper. The importance of our industry to Toronto, and the province as a whole, needs to be recognized and protected to ensure the future of this industry.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Angela Mastronardi
President IATSE Local 873

cc: Councillor Paula Fletcher
Chair, City of Toronto Film, Television and Digital Media Advisory Board

Bobby Donches
A/Film Commissioner & Director of Entertainment Industries, City of Toronto